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Annual Reports Board of Selectmen, Treasurer, Auditor, and Superintending School Committee, of the Town of Bowdoin, for the Year Ending February 23d, 1880.

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ANNUAL REPORTS

BOARD OF SELECTMEN,

TREASURER, AUDITOR,

AND

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE,

OF THE

TOWN OF BOWDOIN,

For the Year Ending February 23d, 1880.

LEWISTON, ME. :
PRINTED AT THE JOURNAL OFFICE.
1880.

REPORT OF SELECTMEN.

The Selectmen of Bowdoin respectfully submit the following report of the financial transactions of the town from Feb. 22d, 1879, to Feb. 23d, 1880, with its resources and liabilities :

VALUATION.

Resident real estate,	\$280,865 00
Non-resident real estate,	22,610 00
Resident personal estate,	80,691 00
Non-resident personal estate,	780 00
	<hr/>
	\$384,946 00

No. taxable polls, 285 ; amount assessed per poll, \$3. No. who pay poll tax only, 65 ; No. who pay poll and personal only, 8 ; No. who pay poll, personal, and real tax, 212 ; No. of non-resident tax payers, 88. Rate of taxation on a dollar, 14½ mills.

ASSESSMENT.

State tax,	\$1,629 48
County tax,	624 15
Common schools,	1,080 00
Highways,	2,000 00
Contingent fund, support of poor, etc.,	900 00
Overlayings,	179 09
Supplementary tax,	26 90
	<hr/>
Total,	\$6,439 62

SCHOOLS.

DR.

To bills of 1879-80, paid,	\$1,435 76	
unexpended balance,	662 29	
	<hr/>	\$2,098 05

CR.

By unexpended balance from 1878-79,	\$377 84	
appropriation for common schools,	1,080 00	
State mill tax,	440 81	
State school fund,	191 08	
tuition,	8 32	
	<hr/>	\$2,098 05

No. Dist.	No. Scholars.	Amount Apportioned.	Due from 1878.	Percentage given.	Total Amount.	Unexpended Balance.
1	20	\$77 08	\$2 79	\$13 30	\$93 17	\$4 02
2	19	73 23	18 09	15 20	106 52	79 52
3	27	104 06			104 06	74 22
4	23	88 64	7 56	7 60	103 80	24 30
5	8	32 40			32 40	32 40
6	17	65 52	15 31	19 00	99 83	59 38
9	27	104 06	123 90		227 96	60 19
10	39	150 31			150 31	18 56
11	49	188 85	14 11		202 96	16 70
12	27	104 06	1 03		105 09	74 59
13	22	84 79	7 33	9 50	101 62	61 88
14	19	65 52	3 51	19 31	88 38	
15	28	107 91			107 91	64 01
16	35	134 89	1 46		136 35	54
17	35	134 89	6 57	*8 32	149 78	
18	29	111 77	4 23		116 00	92 00

* Tuition.

HIGHWAYS.

No. Dist.		Apportioned.	Amt. Expended
1.	G. M. Gowell,	\$38 95	\$33 45
2.	Geo. F. Fulton,	36 55	29 45
3.	Andrew T. Pratt,	69 42	55 40
4.	Frank S. Adams,	78 32	57 82
5.	Granville Purinton,	38 06	33 61
6.	Moses Williams,	21 73	20 07
7.	DeOscar Adams,	34 99	32 30
8.	Wm. H. Tarr,	38 86	35 50
9.	George Ward,	10 33	20 75
10.	Joseph B. Ward,	11 88	17 80
11.	Elisha Tarr,	23 92	41 32
12.	Abizier Purinton,	24 91	30 08
13.	A. M. Brown,	21 86	11 00
14.	Eugene T. Buker,	17 60	17 29
15.	Judah B. Small,	33 44	37 81
16.	C. C. Small,	27 99	31 82
17.	S. P. Quint,	70 62	48 53
18.	G. W. Curtis,	35 09	28 40

19.	Thos. T. Hinkley,	\$39 83	\$32 34
20.	Z. M. Beal,	109 86	87 67
21.	John Coombs,	76 96	48 37
22.	J. S. Merryman,	35 99	28 09
23.	Wm. Cornish,	32 24	28 20
24.	Wm. Tarr,	21 68	14 35
25.	Bubier District,		38 91
26.	John O. Brown,	28 99	20 80
27.	Syl. Stetson,	41 25	35 71
28.	A. E. Batchelder,	22 19	24 46
29.		12 97	24 40
30.	Jas. A. Grover,	17 27	15 80
31.	M. H. Williams,	23 52	15 74
32.	J. C. Purinton,	66 70	30 87
33.	B. W. Card,	21 14	35 47
34.	J. W. Card,	14 42	20 09
35.	Sam Sylvester,	86 51	71 96
36.	O. S. Abel,	55 31	56 45
37.	C. H. Arno,	4 95	4 00
38.	Z. H. Adams,	11 82	22 23
39.	Actor Wheeler,	15 93	3 50
40.	E. Maloon,	22 29	16 35
41.	F. Sampson,	25 32	42 64
42.	Henry Wescott,	22 98	
43.	Isaac O. White,	19 52	60 81
44.	N. A. Beal,	17 52	11 50
To	C. H. Ward, labor on roads,		5 00
	G. R. Polley, labor on roads,		75
	J. J. Doyle, labor on roads,		75
	Z. M. Beal, for material for bridge,		11 65
	N. S. Purinton, for bridge plank,		16 93
	David Smith, for bridge plank,		3 71
	Sam Sylvester, for bridge plank,		12 72
	Horace Carr, for bridge plank,		11 98
	Nicholas Ward, for bridge plank,		1 45
	Lewis Allen, for bridge plank,		87
	A. K. P. Gillpatrick, labor on road,		3 02
	James Alexander, labor on road,		4 56
	John Blake, labor on road,		6 00

John Jaques, labor on road,	\$2 49
Wm. W. Wheeler, labor on road,	3 23
S. O. Jordan, labor on road,	1 72
Chas. Wilson Estate, labor on road,	2 35
Card, Allen & Co., for building new road,	180 00
Harvey Wheeler, labor on water-course,	1 50
W. Potter, labor on road, 1878,	2 00
A. S. Robinson, damage on Starbird Hill,	4 00
	<hr/>
	\$1650 59

PAUPER ACCOUNT.

Paid Isaiah Douglass, for support of Sam'l Cook,	\$110 00
Daniel E. Potter, for support of Susan Doyle,	66 00
N. S. Purinton, for support of M. E. Shepherd,	52 00
supplies furnished M. E. Shepherd,	11 06
Levi Small, for support of Sally Thompson,	121 00
burial expenses of Sally Thompson,	19 00
Lamson & Small, medicine for Sally Thompson,	11 88
burial expenses of Dulincia Allen,	17 84
Insane Asylum, for support Maria Jordan,	50 32
expense committing Maria Jordan to Asylum,	8 45
support C. E. Tripp at Reform School, from Sept., 1877, to March, 1879,	79 15
support Eunice Boobier,	31 60
for support Mrs. Horace Dill,	29 49
for burial expense Otis Boobier,	8 00
burial expense Boobier infant,	3 00
Town of Bowdoinham, for supplies for M. N. Shepherd,	8 00
Mrs. Nath'l Gray, for fourth quarter support of Esther Emory,	16 25
supplies for Israel Holbrook,	11 65
Town of Avon, for supplies for Elisha Stewart,	15 00
Town of Rangeley, for supplies for Jos. Stewart,	35 77
City of Bangor, for aid to Frank Denham,	35 15
Mrs. S. A. Cox, for support of Margery F. Shepherd,	13 93
supplies for Margery F. Shepherd,	9 43
	<hr/>
	\$763 97

PAID TOWN OFFICERS.

Paid N. S. Purinton, Selectman, Assessor, and Overseer,	\$52 00
Wm. D. Hall, " " "	41 50
John O. Brown, " " "	40 25
Alonzo Purinton, Treasurer,	10 00
Alonzo Purinton, Town Clerk,	5 10
N. S. Purinton, Town Agent,	17 50
G. M. Gowell, S. S. Committee,	25 00
F. S. Adams, S. S. Committee,	25 50
J. A. Curtis, S. S. Committee,	4 50
Wm. H. Salley, Collector,	96 59
Samuel Sylvester, Auditor,	1 50
	<hr/>
	\$319 44

ABATEMENTS.

To K. M. Small,	\$12 87
Joel S. Allen, Collector, 1878,	25 72
Wm. H. Salley, Collector, 1879,	1 45
John O. Merserve, Collector, 1876-77,	22 51
Alonzo Purinton, Treasurer, 1879,	4 82
Elisha Small Estate,	54 52
Alden Staples,	1 92
	<hr/>
	\$123 81

CONTINGENT.

To dog tax returned,	\$36 30
Lewiston Journal, printing reports, 1879,	10 25
John Coombs, interest on note to Feb. 24, 1880,	24 00
Alonzo Purinton, for books and stationery,	11 30
paid Gilbert & Spaulding, for counsel,	8 00
Alonzo Purinton, powder, fuse, and nails,	4 44
Granville Purinton, running north line,	4 00
Denham Hall, services as moderator,	1 50
Joseph S. Merryman, care and repairs on town house,	1 12
paid expenses of N. S. Purinton to Oxford Co., in	
Brown pauper case, as per bill,	30 00
paid expenses of Wm. D. Hall to Rangeley, in	
Stewart pauper case, as per bill,	14 23
paid town of Brighton, taxes on farm for 1877,	6 36
	<hr/>
	\$151 50

RECAPITULATION OF EXPENDITURES.

Schools,	\$1,435 76
Paupers,	763 97
Highways,	1,650 59
Town Officers,	319 44
Contingent,	151 50
Abatements,	123 81
	<hr/>
	\$4,445 07
Orders paid by Treasurer for year,	4,445 07

RESOURCES.

Balance in treasury to date,	\$1,651 19
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LIABILITIES.

Note due John Coombs,	\$400 00
Due school districts,	662 29
Outstanding orders,	2 00
Due on contracted paupers, May 8, 1880,	57 00
	<hr/>
	\$1,121 29
	<hr/>
Resources above liabilities,	\$529 90

Respectfully submitted,

N. S. PURINTON,
WM. D. HALL,
JOHN O. BROWN,

Selectmen of Bowdoin.

Bowdoin, Feb. 21, 1880.

REPORT OF TREASURER.

DR.

To commitment from John Coombs, Treas. of 1878-9 :

due from Seth H. Leonard,	\$9 33	
due from John O. Meserve,	36 78	
due from Joel S. Allen,	1,022 62	
Orders paid,	61 92	
Cash on hand,	137 41	
	<hr/>	\$1,268 06
cash from Seth H. Leonard, for license,	2 00	
Commitment to Wm. H. Salley,	4,159 09	
State mill tax,	440 81	
State school fund,	191 08	
tuition from T. T. Whitney,	8 32	
Supplemental tax,	26 90	
State pension,	48 00	
	<hr/>	\$6,144 26

CR.

By orders paid,	\$4,445 07	
State pension, paid Geo. Ward,	\$24 00	
State pension, paid Alonzo Starbird,	24 00	
	<hr/>	48 00
due from Seth H. Leonard,	9 33	
due from John O. Meserve,	11 78	
due from Joel S. Allen,	41 95	
due from Wm. H. Salley,	1,167 68	
cash in treasury,	420 45	
	<hr/>	1,651 19
	<hr/>	\$6,144 26

ALONZO PURINTON, *Treasurer.*

TOWN AGENT'S REPORT.

To the Selectmen and Citizens of Bowdoin :

The action, *Inhabitants of Bangor vs. Inhabitants of Bowdoin*, which was brought the past fiscal year, was on account of Miss Mary P. Brown, a pauper.

The case was continued to the April term, and is to be tried in Bangor. This is all the case the town has pending.

Respectfully submitted,

N. S. PURINTON, *Town Agent.*

AUDITOR'S REPORT.

I have examined the books and accounts of the Selectmen and Treasurer, and compared them with vouchers. I find them correct, of which the foregoing is a correct copy.

SAMUEL SYLVESTER, *Auditor.*

REPORT OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

APPROPRIATIONS.

At the annual town meeting of 1879 the sum of \$1080 was appropriated for the maintenance of school for the ensuing year. The sum of \$191.08 was received from the State as interest on the permanent school fund and \$440.81 as mill tax. The whole amount of money, therefore, appropriated for school purposes throughout the town for the year was \$1711.89.

REGISTRY.

By the census returns there were in town on the first of April, 1879, 422 scholars between the ages of 4 and 21 years.

There are sixteen districts in town, one, District 5, the scholars of which attend school in other places. Two terms of school have been maintained in ten of the fifteen districts and three in the five remaining. From returns already made to the Committee it is estimated that 334 scholars have attended school during the year. Some schools being still in session, the registers have not yet come into the hands of the Committee, and consequently the numbers cannot be given exactly.

TEACHERS.

In any system of schools, however carefully arranged, the teachers must constitute the most important feature. Their personal character, disposition, habits, and intellectual force, together with their mental acquisitions, will determine almost entirely the value and efficiency of the schools under their care. A good teacher, even under unfavorable conditions, will have a good school, while a poor teacher will scarcely ever succeed, under whatever system or circumstances. It becomes, therefore, a matter of the most vital importance to use great care in the selection and employment of teachers, and it is wise to retain, if possible, those who have shown themselves well qualified for their work. Agents should exercise great care in securing teachers of known ability. Cheap teachers, those lacking natural and acquired qualifications, invariably mean poor schools. The Committee have followed the practice which has been in use in

the town for several years, of requiring all candidates of whose qualifications they were not otherwise assured, to pass a written examination. This is, however, in the nature of the case only a partial test. There is no decisive test but that of the school room itself. There the quality of the teacher is very soon displayed. In their visits to the several schools the Committee have, of course, found various degrees of aptness to teach and skill in discipline. Among the twenty-eight teachers whose work has come under our observation during the year there are some of decided and unusual excellence, many whom we should heartily commend, and but few who have failed, in a measure, to approve themselves in their positions. Upon the whole we believe that the town has been faithfully served by its teachers, and that they have well earned not only the small wages they have received, but also the sincere gratitude of both parents and scholars.

SCHOOL HOUSES.

Your Committee are glad to report that one new house, that in District 9, has been completed and rendered one of the most attractive in town. The disposition to improve school buildings which has been manifested during the past few years, has resulted in placing all the houses, with four exceptions, in comfortable condition, and we hope this work will be continued until every room shall be rendered convenient and attractive and well supplied with good black-boards, maps and whatever else may add to their cheerfulness and value.

TEXT-BOOKS.

For many years we have been burdened with the use of several series of Readers of ancient issue; some small schools having as many as three different kinds. This gave rise to a multiplicity of classes, absorbing much of the teacher's time without an adequate return. Under these circumstances the Committee deemed it advisable to make a change. They did so, introducing Munroe's series, which is recognized as a leading text-book in the best schools of the country.

Many of our scholars are now devoting their time to the excessive study of Mathematics. We would recommend instead a course in U. S. History and the more practical of the natural sciences.

IMPROVED CONDITION OF OUR SCHOOLS.

As we have just closed a decade of years it may be well to consider the advancement during that period. Ten years ago the *fash-*

ionable study was Mathematics. No pupil had any scholastic standing unless he could master the National Arithmetic and Higher Algebra. These studies have been largely superseded by more practical and valuable ones which better fit him for the duties of life. They furnish not only the desired mental discipline, but also a fund of *useful* knowledge.

During this time there has been a marked improvement in the methods of instruction. Teaching has now become a vocation. We have a class specially fitted for its duties, in numbers nearly equal to our wants, and an abundance of would-be teachers destitute of both natural talents and mental culture. The increased interest manifested by parents in the success of the schools cannot be too highly commended. It furnishes an incentive to both teachers and pupils. We hope these improvements may be continued and intensified during the next decade.

It will be seen that, in the present report, the Committee have departed from the usual custom of adding to the statistics of the several districts a brief commendation or criticism of the individual teachers employed. This change is one that, on several accounts, commends itself to the judgment of the Committee, and it is believed that it will meet the approval of the citizens. If the opinions of the Committee are desired as an assistance in the future employment of teachers, they will be cheerfully given to those who are charged with that responsibility.

STATISTICS.

DISTRICT No. 1.—JOHN O. MESERVE, Agent.

Census of scholars, 20. Appropriation, \$90.38. *Summer Term*, 8 weeks; Miss Eva A. Niles, teacher. Whole number attending, 20; average, 16. *Winter Term*, 11 weeks; Emery E. Purington, teacher. Whole number attending, 22; average, 21.

DISTRICT No. 2.—THOMAS W. SKELTON, Agent.

Census of scholars, 19. Appropriation, \$88.43. *Summer Term*, 11 weeks; Miss Viola E. Rogers, teacher. Whole number attending, 9; average, 8. *Winter Term*, Mr. J. A. Cone, teacher. School still in session.

DISTRICT No. 3.—ABNER P. BUKER, Agent.

Census of scholars, 27. Appropriation, \$104.06. *Summer Term*, 8 weeks; Miss Ada P. Purington, teacher. Whole number attending, 15; average, 12. *Winter Term*, 10 weeks; Mr. Frank S. Adams, teacher. Whole number attending, 17; average, 14.

DISTRICT No. 4.—MOSES WILLIAMS, Agent.

Census of scholars, 23. Appropriation, \$96.24. *Summer Term*, 8 weeks; Miss Eva A. Niles, teacher. Whole attendance, 13; average, 11. *Winter Term*, 10 weeks; Miss Addie A. Williams, teacher. Whole attendance, 14; average, 11.

DISTRICT No. 6.—JOSEPH B. WARD, Agent.

Census of scholars, 17. Appropriation, \$84.52. *Summer Term*, 9 weeks; Miss Lizzie E. Buker, teacher. Whole number attending, 15; average, 12. *Winter Term*, 13 weeks; Miss Lizzie E. Buker, teacher. Whole number attending, 17; average, 14.

DISTRICT No. 9.—JESSE SMALL, Agent.

Census of scholars, 27. Appropriation, \$104.06. *Summer Term*, 10 weeks; Miss Angie B. Carter, teacher. Whole number attending, 23; average, 18. *Fall Term*, 8 weeks. Miss Angie B. Carter, teacher. Whole number attending, 22; average, 18. *Winter Term*, 9½ weeks; Mr. J. R. Hatch, teacher. Whole attendance, 18; average, 13.

DISTRICT No. 10.—CHARLES H. ALEXANDER, Agent.

Census of scholars, 37. Appropriation, \$150.31. *Summer Term*, 5 weeks; Miss Nellie M. Woodworth, teacher. Whole number attending, 24; average 22. Term closed unexpectedly on account of sickness. *Winter Term*, 12 weeks; Prescott Keyes, Jr., teacher. Whole attendance, 20; average, 18.

DISTRICT No. 11.—DANIEL COOMBS, Agent.

Census of scholars, 49. Appropriation, \$188.55. *Summer Term*, 9 weeks. Miss Delvina E. Coombs, teacher. Whole attendance, 29; average, 25. *Fall Term*, 9 weeks. Miss Delvina E. Coombs, teacher. Whole attendance, 32; average, 25. *Winter Term*, 12 weeks. Lincoln E. Rogers, teacher. Whole attendance, 34; average, 27.

DISTRICT No. 12.—THOMAS SHAW, Agent.

Census of scholars, 27. Appropriation, \$104.06. *Summer Term*, 10 weeks. Miss Clara E. Coombs, teacher. Whole attendance, 15; average, 12. *Winter Term*, 12 weeks. Albert P. Small, teacher. Whole attendance, 20; average, 18.

DISTRICT No. 13.—JAMES GROVER, Agent.

Census of scholars, 22. Appropriation, \$94.29. *Summer Term*, 7 weeks. Miss Emma L. Grover, teacher. Whole attendance, 13;

average, 10. *Winter Term*, 12 weeks; Mr. John F. Buker, teacher. Whole attendance, 15; average, 11.

DISTRICT No. 14.—DAVID E. CHASE, Agent.

Census of scholars, 17. Appropriation, \$84.87. *Summer Term*, 10 weeks; Miss Cedora J. Chadburn, teacher. Whole number attending, 9; average, 9. *Fall Term*, 12 weeks. Miss Jennie G. Stetson, teacher. Whole attendance, 8; average, 7. *Winter Term*, 6 weeks. Mr. R. O. Chase, teacher. Whole attendance, 7; average, 6.

DISTRICT No. 15.—W. P. FICKETT, Agent.

Census of scholars, 28. Appropriation, \$107.91. *Summer Term*, 7 weeks. Miss Jennie G. Stetson, teacher. Whole attendance, 18; average, 15. *Fall Term*, 9 weeks. Miss Lilla A. Carr, teacher. Whole attendance, 16; average, 13. *Winter Term*, 10 weeks. L. A. Macomber, teacher. Whole attendance 16; average, 7.

DISTRICT No. 16.—JOEL S. ALLEN, Agent.

Census of scholars, 35. Appropriation, \$134.89. *Summer Term*, 13 weeks. Miss Lizzie Maxwell, teacher. Whole attendance, 23; average, 19. *Winter Term*, 11 weeks. Mr. William F. Small, teacher. Whole attendance, 28; average, 22.

DISTRICT No. 17.—THOMAS T. WHITNEY, Agent.

Census of scholars, 35. Appropriation, \$134.89. *Summer Term*, 8 weeks. Miss Emma E. Cotton, teacher. Whole attendance, 27; average, 23. *Fall Term*, 8 weeks. Miss Emma E. Cotton, teacher. Whole attendance, 33; average, 29. *Winter Term*, 10 weeks. William S. Cotton, Jr., teacher. Whole attendance, 27; average, 21.

DISTRICT No. 18.—JOHN CURTIS, Agent.

Census of scholars, 29. Appropriation, \$111.77. *Summer Term*, 8 weeks. Miss Nellie M. Woodworth, teacher. Whole attendance, 20; average, 18. *Winter Term*, 12 weeks. Mr. J. Andrew Curtis, teacher. Whole attendance, 28; average, 24.

Respectfully submitted,

G. M. GOWELL,
F. S. ADAMS,
J. A. CURTIS,

Superintending School Committee.